

Baird Secures Funding for Clark County (Feb, 25, 2009)

Washington, D.C.— Congressman Brian Baird (WA-03) today announced major funding for key Clark County projects that was secured when the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R 1105) passed the House of Representatives. The bill will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

Washington, D.C.— Congressman Brian Baird (WA-03) today announced major funding for key Clark County projects that was secured when the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R 1105) passed the House of Representatives. The bill will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

“This federal funding is essential to residents in Southwest Washington who depend on these critical resources day in and day out,” said Congressman Brian Baird. “By improving our local infrastructure and adopting new technologies we are investing in the future of the region. These projects will not only play a major role in our recovery in these tough economic times, but will benefit the area for generations to come.”

Local Mayors React:

“The waterfront renaissance project is the pinnacle in the next chapter of downtown Vancouver’s revitalization. The opportunity to connect, and in some ways reconnect, our community to our waterfront is unmatched in terms of size and potential,” said Vancouver Mayor Royce E. Pollard. “This project will forever change the face of Vancouver and the state of Washington”

“Parents and students benefit greatly from the Battle Ground School Resource Officer Program. Congressman Baird’s help in securing funds for this critical program is a testament to his understanding of the issues we face in Battle Ground,” said Battleground Mayor Michael Ciraulo. “These federal dollars will ensure our kids learn in a safe and productive environment and we are grateful to the Congressman for his leadership.”

Congressman Baird announced the following funding for key Clark County projects:

Columbia River

Channel Deepening - \$34,451,000

Funding will be used to continue deepening the 103 mile federal navigation channel from the Mouth of the Columbia River to Vancouver by three feet (from 40 to 43 feet). Using funding from both Oregon and Washington states and federally appropriated funds, the Army Corps of Engineers has been working on deepening the Columbia River navigation channel since June of 2005. According to the Corps, 35% of the navigation channel still needs to be dredged.

I-5 Columbia River Crossing planning - \$1,330,000

Funding will be used for preliminary engineering and environmental documentation for the I-5 Columbia River Crossing project to reduce congestion and improve safety between Vancouver and Portland.

Records Management System in Vancouver, WA - \$500,000

The funding will be used to replace the current law and justice records system with a new Records Management System, and to transfer the data from the existing system to the new system.

A new Records Management System (RMS) will enable law enforcement agencies in the Clark County region to perform better crime analysis, deploy personnel in a more effective manner, share information more effectively and better fight crime. With a new RMS, law enforcement agencies will be able to use crime mapping to pinpoint areas where patterns of crimes are occurring and to more effectively deploy their limited resources.

School Resource Officer in Battle Ground, WA - \$100,000

Funding will provide the resources necessary to keep law enforcement officers actively working in the Battleground School District and help coordinate crime prevention programs in the community to ensure kids are able to learn in a safe and productive environment.

North Parkway
Improvements in Battle Ground, WA-
\$475,000

North Parkway
is badly in need of repair between Onsdorff Boulevard and N 6th Street.
The road links neighborhoods to schools and the downtown core area.

The funding will be used to widen the roadway, provide two through lanes, a two-way left turn lane, curb, gutters, sidewalks and bike lanes on each side.

Online Credit Recovery Courses at
Evergreen Public Schools - \$119,000

The funding will allow the District to improve its capacity to serve students by providing a cost effective and flexible way to get students back in school or keep students in school. Online Credit Recovery Courses provide students with another way to make up for missed learning and lost credit.

Waterfront Renaissance
Project— \$3,087,500

First step in completely remaking the downtown Waterfront. This project will create the access necessary for development to occur on 40+ acres along Vancouver's west Columbia River waterfront. Once the access is created, the private investment on the waterfront is estimated to total \$1.3 billion. The project includes construction of two new grade-separated BNSF main railway under-crossings as well as an extension of the existing waterfront multi-use trail. This funding would be used to construct railway underpasses at Grant and Esther Streets connecting downtown Vancouver with the waterfront.

West Vancouver
Freight Access - \$950,000

The project will improve freight rail near the Vancouver Columbia River waterfront and extending through the port to accommodate new marine and industrial properties to the west. The project addresses necessary new freight rail access to and from the rail mainline and the port, while at the same time

providing considerable capacity and velocity improvement to a national system chokepoint at the Vancouver Wye.

The funding will be used to complete unit train arrival and departure tracks, complete main leads to create unit train access, and construct a unit train line that will begin an immediate reduction in congestion on mainline and improve internal rail operations.

###